



The Oslerian

A Message from the President

Furthering Our Mission—III

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Greetings, Fellow Oslerians!

As Oslerians, we are either richly blessed by our hearty idealism, or have a genetic defect, depending on one's point of view. In our post-modern age of deconstruction, respect (or reverence) for larger-than-life heroes who made major contributions to an understanding of biomedicine too commonly is regarded as tendentious hagiography. However, for most of us, a high titer of idealism is what inspires us to persevere and attempt to excel.

In **William Osler's** remarks at the farewell dinner given by the medical professions of the United States and Canada on 2 May 1905, prior to his departure for England, "L'envoi" (*Aequanimitas*..., 3rd edition, Philadelphia: Blakiston; 1932: 447-451), Osler encapsulated his three personal ideals as follows:

One is to do the day's work well and not to bother about to-morrow. It has been urged that this is not a satisfactory ideal. It is; and there is not one which the student can carry with him into practice with greater effect. To it, more than anything else, I owe whatever suc-

cess I have had—to this power of settling down to the day's work and trying to do it well to the best of one's ability, and letting the future take care of itself.

The second ideal has been to act the Golden rule, as far as in me lay, towards my professional brethren and towards the patients committed to my care.

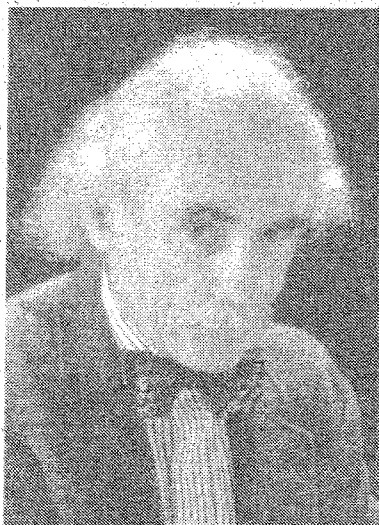
And the third has been to cultivate such a measure of equanimity as would enable me to bear success with humility, the affection of my friends without pride and to be ready when the day of sorrow and grief came to meet it with the courage befitting a man.

We know all these words by heart. Undoubtedly, to a great extent, it was Osler's dedication to the history of the profession, and the lives of those who have gone before, that helped to reinforce his idealism.

It is sobering to contemplate the influence Osler has had, both in his own time, and since his death, as a mentor and model for idealism and excellence in medicine. Would that each of us, in our lives and work, have a tittle of that influ-

ence on the students and colleagues with whom we are associated. As Henry E. Sigerist declared, the history of medicine instills "an idealism more desirable than ever and without which life would not be worth living" (Quoted by Marcel H. Bickel, "Family background and early years in Paris and Zurich, 1891-1925, in Elizabeth Fee and Theodore E. Brown, editors, *Making Medical History: The Life and Times of Henry E. Sigerist*, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press; 1997: 32).

Through our meetings, our publications, and our lives, our Society has done much to promote idealism. As I browsed the AOS website several days ago, I was struck with the particularly fine job our Secretary-Treasurer **Charles S. Bryan**, with the assistance of **Sanchia Mitchell**, has done. As I trust you know by now, the website contains a wealth of information for our Society and its founding, as well as that of various Osler clubs and societies. Seeing pictures of **William Bennett Bean** and **George T. Harrell**, founding fathers of the AOS, giants of medicine, historians of note, and idealists, impressed me. (Continued on page 2)



Lawrence D. Longo

President's Message: Furthering Our Mission—III (continued)

again with the debt we owe to our mentors.

Probably because of our name, the American Osler Society is often thought of as being a national organization, limited in scope to the United States. Founded in 1970 by some of the leaders in American medicine, from the beginning the Society has been international in scope. One of the first individuals elected to honorary membership was **Wilder Penfield**, a Connecticut Yankee by

birth, who headed the Montreal Neurological Institute. The second AOS meeting was held in Montreal, in conjunction with the meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine. Since that time, the Society has broadened its membership to include many members from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Japan. Our 1994 meeting in London, in conjunction with

the Osler Club of London, helped to strengthen our ties to our British brethren.

Our forthcoming meeting in Edinburgh, in conjunction with the Osler Club of London, the Japanese Osler Society, and the Scottish Society for the History of Medicine, again will help to reinforce the international nature of our Society, and its commitment to serious studies in the history of the health sciences.

Your officers are working to insure that this, indeed, is one of the finest meetings of the Society—one filled with “fellowship, conviviality, and civility”—and one worthy of unabashed idealists.

Persevere!

Lawrence D. Longo
E-mail: llongo@som.ltu.edu

Oslerian Progress Notes

Jock Murray has been named the Mentor of the Year 2001 by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Area 5. He has previously been honored by the American Academy of Neurology for his lifetime contributions to neurological education; by the Consortium of MS Centers for his lifetime contributions to multiple sclerosis, and by the Hannah Institute for Medical History with the Neilson Award for contributions to the history of medicine.

Cynthia DeHaven Pitcock, with Bill J. Gurley, has had published *Acted from Principle: The Civil War Diary of Dr. William M. McPheeters, Confederate Surgeon in the Trans-Mississippi*, by the University of Arkansas Press.

Charles F. Wooley has had published *The Irritable Heart of Soldiers and the Origins of Anglo-American Cardiology: The US Civil War (1961) to World War I (1918)* in the series, *The History of Medicine in Context* (Ashgate Publishing Co.).

Edward C. Atwater, Professor Emeritus of Medicine at the University of Rochester, has for sale a collection of Osleriana. The collection

includes “Christmas and the Microscope” (W.O.’s first publication), two copies of the first printing of the first edition of W.O.’s textbook, a presentation copy signed by W.O. of the sixth edition of the textbook, and other gems. His address is: Edward C. Atwater, MD, FACP, 195 Whitewood Lane, Rochester, MN 14618 (telephone [716] 473 4356, e-mail eatwater@ATTglobal.net).

Alex Sakula writes from his home in Hove, Sussex:

Dear Charles,
Greetings! I thought you might like to print the little piece below in your next mailing.

Hippocrates and Osler: What's in a Name?

Hippocrates bore a name the literal translation of which was a holder or handler of a horse (Greek: *hippo*, the horse; and *kratos*, to hold or handle). The family name of Osler presumably derived from *ostler*, applied to one who holds or handles the horse. It is intriguing that the great physician of the ancient world and the great physician of the modern world

should both carry a name with a similar meaning. One wonders whether Osler, himself a classical scholar, ever considered this curious coincidence.

Yours sincerely,
Alex

In reply:

Such correspondence always makes my day! According to the *New Dictionary of American Family Names* by Elsdon C. Smith (New York: Gramercy Publishing Company; 1988), “Osler” (English) is indeed a variant of “Ostler.” However, the derivation of “Ostler” (also English) is given as “one who lodges or entertains guests, especially in a monastery; one who keeps a hostelry or inn.” —CSB

Kerrie Osler, a 16-year-old who lives “in a little village called Southery” in the south of England (see the previous issue of *The Oslerian*), reports that she did extremely well on her examinations and “a lot better than what my teachers estimated me.” She is just starting a two-year college curriculum to study child care with the aim of becoming a nursery nurse. Kerrie, who is

always wanting to know more about her family, can be reached at: chun-kers_15@hotmail.com.

Nicholas Dewey writes: “I’m catching up on Oslerian correspondence after nearly 6 months in England [where his address is Weaver’s Cottage, Guildenford, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4SE]” and that his brick [won for having the best marks on February’s Oslerian quiz] is “sitting here safely in isolated splendor.” He reports that “I had a long talk with John (Lord) Walton this summer past, and presented my own collection of Oslerian papers—especially my 1984 “Osler-Revisited” material—to 13 Norham Gardens. His chairmanship of the Friends, & caretakership of the library, is being taken over by Terrence Ryan, a retired dermatology professor.” He’s “still pondering the Edinburgh project.”

Charles S. Bryan has been elected to Mastership in the American College of Physicians.

Lord Walton and 13 Norham Gardens

On April 26, 1989, in Birmingham, Alabama, Lord Walton of Detchant gave the fourth John P. McGovern Award Lectureship to the AOS. His topic: "The 'Open Arms' Reviving: Can we Rekindle the Osler Flame?" With enormous satisfaction, we note that John Walton's tenure at Osler's Oxford residence has been characterized by enormous progress and change. As previously reported in *The Oslerian*, a substantial donation by Dr. John P. McGovern—who is Life President of the Friends of 13 Norham Gardens and an Honorary Fellow of Green College, Oxford—was pivotal to the purchase of the property by Green College. Today, the rambling residence provides a textbook example of creative multi-purpose use of large, old buildings:

The Osler-McGovern Centre, which includes W.O.'s study and which offers a splendid venue for seminars and small conferences.

The University Newcomers Club, which schedules an active program of social events and meetings for academic and professional visitors to Oxford

The Reuters Foundation Programme, which features seminars and research projects for journalists from many countries.

Many other activities and special events.

The July 2002 issue of *13 Norham Gardens Newsletter* (number 18) makes it abundantly clear that the Osler flame has indeed been rekindled. The foreseeable future for 13 Norham Gardens seems quite secure.

To list but a few of the activities now taking place:

A McGovern Annual Lecture in the History of Medi-

cine.

Osler-Green rowing, sponsoring crews in both men's and women's competitions.

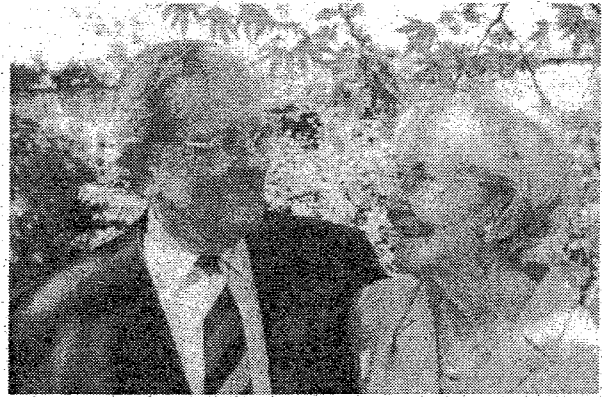
An Osler Essay Prize competition, endowed by Dr. Murray Entin of Canada.

An Osler House Club, which provides organized activities for clinical students.

During the most recent academic year, 106 clinical students participated in Osler House Club activities including "two weeks of parties and sporting events..., initiation games, jazz and cocktails, parents' dinner, blind date evening, a slave auction and a trip to the greyhound racing track." The students also put on a show described as a classical extravaganza which combined the best of the ancient world with the latest in medical school humour." The crowning event seems to have been "the gladiator competition which saw one Regius Professor of Medicine watch helpless as one GI surgeon slayed another in front of an audience screaming for blood." Surely, W.O. would have approved.

The newsletter contains a personal message from Lord Walton:

"I should now mention that this will be the last 13 Norham Gardens Newsletter than I shall be writing personally. I am now in my 80th year and my wife is nearly 81, and we have decided, very reluctantly, that we can no longer continue to run two homes and two substantial gardens 360 miles apart. Accordingly, we have made the decision to move permanently to our home at Detchant in north Northumberland as from the early autumn



Lord and Lady (John and Betty) Walton of Detchant

of 2002. All my medical books at present housed in 13 Norham Gardens, including those on medical history, will be moved to the Walton Library in the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, where I graduated and where I was formerly Dean of Medicine before moving to Green College as Warden in 1983. My papers of historical interest will go to the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine in London. I shall, however, be renting an office in Northumberland, close to our home, in order to continue with my work, and my wife and I have purchased a small apartment in Newcastle from which it will be relatively easy for me to continue to commute to and from London in order to attend sittings of the House of Lords. Happily, now that the future of 13 Norham Gardens and of the Osler-McGovern Centre is assured, I have been in discussion with the Warden of Green College, Sir John Hanson, and with Professor Terence Ryan, the Vice Chairman of the Friends of 13 Norham Gardens, and Terence Ryan assures me that with the full agreement of the Warden, he will continue to maintain and develop the Osler memorabilia in the Osler-McGovern

Centre and that the ethos of Osler's old study will be maintained. Plainly, although my wife and I will no longer be living in Oxfordshire, we shall continue to take an interest in Green College and in 13 Norham Gardens and its future, and will hope to be able to visit from time to time in the future."

During the past year, a number of AOS members have given material to 13 Norham Gardens ranging from manuscripts to videotapes. The Green College Development Office (email: development_office@green.ox.ac.uk) can provide forms for contributions including information on tax effective giving from the United States. The American Osler Society will continue to include "Friends of 13 Norham Gardens" on its annual billing statements to members, and those who donate will receive a letter from the AOS Secretary-Treasurer for documentation.

We join Green College in thanking Lord and Lady Walton for their superb stewardship of 13 Norham Gardens and in wishing them many happy years of semi-retirement.

—CSB

Participants' Evaluations of the 32nd Annual Meeting, April 24-25, 2002

Requirements for Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit—which is deemed important by many of our members—include documentation of feedback from participants. In that spirit, we are pleased to report that the 32nd annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, was by and large well-received.

General responses from the MD participants (only five non-MD participants completed the questionnaire) were as follows:

“Activity met my need”—82% excellent, 18% good.

“Activity made me want to learn more”—84% excellent, 14% good, 2% satisfactory

“Activity valuable to me professionally”—64% excellent, 36% good

“Format facilitated learning”—69% excellent, 29% good, 1% satisfactory.

“Opportunity for participation was...”—67% excellent, 22% good, 10% satisfactory

“Audiovisual materials were...”—53% excellent, 32% good, 12% satisfactory, 4% poor

“Handout packet was...” 60% excellent, 28% good, 10% satisfactory, 2% poor

“Facilities were...”—55% excellent, 33% good, 10% satisfactory, 2% poor

“Overall activity rating”—82% excellent, 18% good

“I would recommend this activity to others”—85% excellent, 15% good.

With respect to the overall learning objectives of the program, the physician attendees responded as follows:

Discuss the details and continued relevance of Osler's contributions to medical education and research, the rise of academic medical centers, concepts of death and dying, and the concept of professionalism—100% met.

Contrast Osler's understanding with present-day knowledge of five specific medical topics—100% met.

Relate Osler's interest in the humanities and his aphorisms to various sayings and themes in poetry, music, and motion pictures—100% met.

List specific ways in which Osler influenced American medicine and discuss whether Osler would be successful were he alive today—98% met, 2% not met.

Contribute to dialogue concerning how the American Osler Society might have a positive impact on medicine through a Publications Policy—94% met, 6% not met.

There were numerous positive comments. For example:

“Osler's influence is unifying; Osler remains a role model for the ethics and humanities of medicine”

“I learned that the Osler Society is composed of some of the most intellectually competent people in medicine.”

“William Osler was an unbelievably remarkable scholar; the AOS is a very unique group—I hope to attend other meetings...”

“The need to make Osler more relevant to students/trainees of today [was validated]”

“History, humility and humor to sustain and carry on a life of contentment [was illustrated]”

All but two respondents felt that enough time was allotted for presentations and discussions. One said, “Timing was erratic—a couple of papers were cut off prematurely, without time for discussion; others were allowed to go long overtime.” However, all felt that the sessions were presented objectively and fairly. Some suggestions for improvement were as follows:

“Record talks and make available as MP3 files on the Web with associated PowerPoint files.”

“More careful managing of times for papers and discussions.”

“25% vs. 50% Osler topics would allow greater opportunity for new ideas and knowledge”

“Include a couple of panel discussions”

“Allow more discussion time”

“Have a ‘roving microphone’ that could be handed to questioners”

“More substantial issues, less minutia and esoterica”

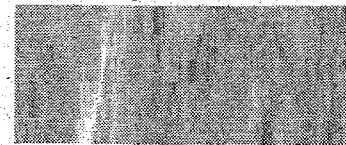
“Only unpublished work should be presented”

“Spread meeting out over 3 days”

“Third meeting, more discussion, perhaps a bit longer.”

I would like to thank Steve Hasterok for his coordination of our CME activities and for compiling these data. The complete report is available upon request.

—CSB



82% of physician attendees gave the program an excellent overall rating.

86% of physician attendees responded “excellent” to how they would recommend the program to others.

100% of physician attendees felt that the first three overall learning objectives were met.

All physician respondents felt that the sessions were presented objectively and fairly.

One new attendee “learned that the Osler Society is composed of some of the most intellectually competent people in medicine”

Two physician respondents felt the meeting should spread out over three days.

Two physician respondents suggested that there be “more substantial issues, less minutia and esoterica”

In Memoriam

Edward C. Rosenow, Jr.



Edward C. Rosenow, Jr., MACP, FRCP (London), the first secretary of the American Osler Society and a past president (1974-1975), died in Kearney, Nebraska, at the age of 92 on June 3, 2002.

Dr. Rosenow was raised in Rochester, Minnesota, where his father was a prominent member of the staff of the Mayo Clinic. He received his undergraduate education, which was interrupted for two years to teach English in China, at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1935, he completed residency and fellowship training at the Mayo Clinic and also earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Minnesota.

From 1940 to 1957, Dr. Rosenow practiced internal medicine in Pasadena, California. His office was across the street from Earl Nation's, and the two became very close (Dr.

Nation promises to tell the story of how Ed became the first secretary of AOS). His leadership abilities were recognized by his election to the presidency of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, and his teaching abilities by his appointment as clinical professor of medicine at the University of Southern California. In 1959, he moved to Philadelphia to become Executive Vice President of the American College of Physicians. Under his leadership, membership in the ACP increased from 10,000 to 40,000 and the circulation of the *Annals of Internal Medicine* from 24,000 to 84,000. He helped establish the ACP's Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program was instrumental in the establishment of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies. He received

the ACP's Alfred Stengel Memorial Award in 1976 and the Distinguished Internist Award from the American Society of Internal Medicine in 1977.

Dr. Rosenow's first wife was the former Esther Church, whom he met in China. In the 1970s, the couple returned to China and visited the village where they had met as fellow teachers. She died in 1985. In 1989, he married La Vonne Anderson, who was the widow of a fellow physician.

Dr. Rosenow's interests included symphony and ballet. He was also a golfer, and was a member of the Merion Golf Club.

He is survived by his wife, a son and daughter, a stepson and two stepdaughters, a brother, seven grandchildren, and a great grandson.

—CSB

In Memoriam

Oswei Temkin

Oswei Temkin, MD, the acknowledged dean of American medical historians, died on July 18, 2002, three months shy of his 100th birthday. Although he was not a member of the American Osler Society, he was influential—both directly and indirectly—on the historical interests and careers of numerous Oslerians.

Dr. Temkin was born in Minsk, Russia, in 1902. In 1905, his family emigrated to Leipzig, Germany. He received his medical degree in 1905 from the University of Leipzig, where he also studied the history of medicine. In 1932, he joined the faculty of the Institute of the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University as a lecturer. Henry Sigerist had just become the director

of the Institute, which had been founded by William H. Welch. Dr. Temkin became editor of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* when Dr. Sigerist was succeeded as director by Richard H. Shryock. In 1958, Dr. Temkin succeeded Shryock as director of the institute and William H. Welch Professor.

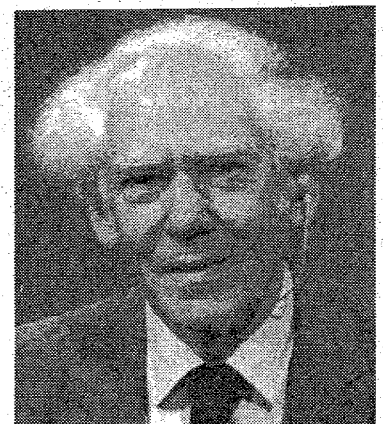
Dr. Temkin was known for his command of numerous languages, as was his wife, Lillian, who worked alongside him for many years. He wrote hundreds of articles and numerous books including *The Falling Sickness: A History of Epilepsy from the Greeks to the Beginning of Modern Neurology*, *Soranus' Gynecology*, *Galenism: Rise and Fall of a Medical Philosophy*, and *The Double Face of Janus and Other Essays in the History of Medicine*. In 1991, at age 89, he had published *Hippocrates in a World of Pagans and*

Christians, a magisterial overview of the emergence of scientific medicine in the context of monotheistic religion. Despite his caveat that "the intrusion of a medical historian into the history of religion may evoke the warning *Ne sutor supra crepidam* ("Let not the cobbler overstep his last"), the book reflects the sure hand of an incredibly versatile scholar familiar not only with medical history but also with the classics and with medicine's changing social context. In 2002, at age 99, he had published yet another book, "*On Second Thought*," and *Other Essays in the History of Medicine and Science*.

Dr. Temkin received numerous honors and was a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Sciences.

To conclude with a personal note, I am proud to take my place among the legions who trace their efforts in medical history to this gentle, gracious, and wise man. His generosity and advice to a 21-year-old undergraduate student with little or no knowledge of medical history has made all the difference.

—CSB



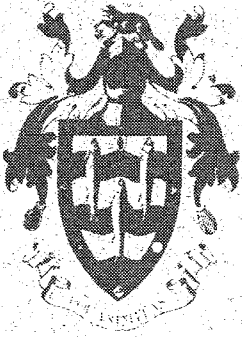
AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

American Osler Society
Charles S. Bryan, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer
2 Medical Park, Suite 502
Columbia, SC 29203

Phone: 803-540-1000
Fax: 803-540-1075
Email: cbryan@richmed.medpark.sc.edu

Spend the last half-hour of the day in communion with the saints of humanity.

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Aequanimitas

The Oslerian is published approximately four times a year by the American Osler Society, Inc., a non-profit organization. Members of the American Osler Society are encouraged to send news items of interest, including but by no means limited to their personal activities and accomplishments and accompanied by photographs or other illustrations. For distribution of reprints and other materials of possible interest to AOS members, please send 180 copies. Your ideas for The Oslerian are of course most welcome! Direct all correspondence by mail, fax, or e-mail to the Secretary-Treasurer.

The American Osler Society has been founded for the purpose of bringing together members of the medical and allied professions who are, by their common inspiration, dedicated to memorialize and perpetuate the just and charitable life, the intellectual resourcefulness and the ethical example of **William Osler** (1849-1919). This, for the benefit of succeeding generations, that their motives be ever more sound, that their vision be on everbroadening horizons, and that they sail not as Sir Thomas Browne's Ark, without oars and without rudder and sails and, therefore, without direction.

Some Abstracts Submitted for the 2003 Annual Meeting in Edinburgh

The next annual meeting will take place at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, Scotland, 21 to 24 May 2003. The deadline for abstract submission (November 15, 2003) has now passed; the Program Committee, chaired by Marvin Stone and with input from the Osler Club of London and the Japanese Osler Society, will soon begin its deliberations. The abstracts are of high quality, and already the program is shaping up as another "don't miss."

Special events will include:

- The president's address, which will be given during the daytime—possibly setting a new precedent.
- The John P. McGovern Award Lecture, to be given by Sir Richard Doll.
- A special symposium on medical professionalism.
- Two banquets—one at the Royal College of Physicians, the other at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Abstracts pertaining directly to William Osler include such titles as:

- "Osler and Lister; Comparisons, Contrasts and Connections"
- "Sir William Osler, the Pathologist, and Ludwig Aschoff, the Clinician: Comparisons of their Careers and Personalities"
- "Sir William Osler's Influence on the Development of Pediatrics"
- "Five letters from the Oslers to an American Student at Oxford"
- "'Life in the Tropics' by Sir William Osler"
- "Words, Words, Words: The Osler/Murray Connection. II"
- "Nathan Smith: Oslerian Mentor and Edinburgh Legacy"
- "Sir Andrew Clark: A Scottish Influence on Osler"

Abstracts pertaining more specifically to British and Scottish medicine include:

- "Scottish Medical Monuments"
- "The Anti-Oslerians"
- "Joseph Lister and German Creosote"
- "William Hunter (1718-1783): The Man Behind the Museum"

In addition, there are numerous thought-provoking titles that should generate a great deal of discussion. At this point, it seems clear that we will have two full days of papers, plus another half-day. As Dr. Lawrence D. Longo has observed in his presidential messages, the meeting promises to be a wonderful celebration of Oslerian medicine and Oslerian ideals. Y'all come!